



*Office of United States Attorney
District of Arizona*
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PRESS RELEASE

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PUBLIC CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN PRISON TIME FOR FORMER INS INSPECTORS

TUCSON, ARIZONA - JESUS CORELLA, 42, a former Inspector with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, stationed at the Port of Entry in Nogales, Arizona, was sentenced today to two and a half years imprisonment, by U.S. District Court Judge Raner Collins. While employed as an Inspector for INS, **CORELLA** was responsible for inspecting motor vehicles that entered into the United States from Mexico and determining if the vehicle was carrying illegal contraband. **CORELLA** was charged with Bribery of a Public Official for permitting vehicles he believed to be transporting cocaine to enter into the United States, with 1,289 pounds of cocaine, in exchange for a \$75,000 cash payment, on June 1996. He pleaded guilty to the charge on March 23, 1999.

CORELLA was arrested on February 2, 1999, after his employment as an INS Inspector had ended. However, the investigation that led to his arrest also led to the arrest of three additional Inspectors. Unlike **CORELLA**, the other three defendants were still employed as Inspectors by the INS and stationed at the Port of Entry in Nogales, Arizona.

The three Inspectors who were arrested were accused of accepting cash payments in return for being influenced in the performance of their official duties are as follows:

MARIA de LOS ANGELES ALABADO, 38, was responsible for issuing Record of Entry and Departure Permits (I-94) to Mexican citizens which allows them to travel in the United States for up to 6 months and was charged with Bribery of a Public Official for facilitating the approval of these immigration documents in exchange for \$500.00, on three separate occasions. **ALABADO** pleaded guilty and on September 16, 1999, was sentenced to 90 days in jail.

RAFAEL LANDA, 51, was responsible for inspecting motor vehicles that entered the United States from Mexico and determining if the vehicles were carrying illegal contraband. **LANDA** was charged with Bribery of a Public Official for permitting a vehicle, he believed to be transporting cocaine, to enter into the United States in exchange for \$20,000 in June 1998 and \$10,000 in September 1998. **LANDA** was also charged with Attempting to Import Cocaine and Attempting to Possess with Intent to Distribute Cocaine and is subject to an asset forfeiture action which will allow the U.S. Government to seize up to \$300,780 in cash which had been paid to him for allowing vehicles carrying cocaine to enter into the United States from Mexico. **LANDA** pleaded guilty to Attempting to Possess with Intent to Distribute Cocaine and on July 15, 1999, was sentenced to three and a half years imprisonment.

(MORE)

ROBERT RONQUILLO, 34, was responsible for inspecting motor vehicles that entered the United States from Mexico and determining if the vehicles were carrying illegal contraband.

RONQUILLO was charged with Bribery of a Public Official for permitting a vehicle, he believed to be transporting cocaine, to enter into the United States in exchange for \$7,500 in January 1998, \$7,500 in April 1998, \$7,500 in May 1998, and \$10,000 in November 1998. **RONQUILLO** was also charged with Attempting to Import Cocaine and Attempting to Possess with Intent to Distribute Cocaine.

RONQUILLO pleaded guilty to Attempting to Possess with Intent to Distribute Cocaine and on July 2, 1999, was sentenced to three years imprisonment.

The investigation that led to the successful prosecution was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; U.S. Customs Service, Office of Internal Affairs and Office of Investigations; Drug Enforcement Administration; Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations Division; the Santa Cruz County Metro Task Force; and the Arizona Department of Public Safety and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The prosecution was handled by James Lacey, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

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